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present at the transfer of Astoria to the British, and gives us an account of the proceeding.

Dr. Coues' notes are voluminous. A vast mass of personal names has been collected, much of it worthless, except perhaps to the local historian; but with this there is abundant evidence of the editor's familiarity with the local geography and with the natural history of the region of the travels. On its historical side and on its anthropological side the work might be improved by an editor of other qualifications.

FREDERICK J. TURNER.

*The Struggle between President Johnson and Congress over Reconstruction.* By CHARLES ERNEST CHADSEY, Ph.D. [Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, Vol. VIII., No. I.] (New York: Macmillan Co. 1897. Pp. 150.)

To say that this book treats of the most interesting and important, and at the same time most tragic event in the civil history of the United States, is not overstating the fact. It is a very complete summary of the mass of Congressional legislation on that delicate and exciting topic, and clearly and forcefully illustrates, not only the extraordinary gravity of the issues of that time, but the varying stages of the process of the reconstructive legislation of Congress rendered seemingly necessary by those issues, this recital ending—as the closing chapter of the book, as it was the close of the record of the Reconstruction era—with a brief chapter on the impeachment of Andrew Johnson in 1868.

In the matter of Reconstruction, and the development of the successive and progressive stages of legislation and changes of conditions that marked its progress, this volume is the most complete presentation of the facts of the history relating thereto, that has ever been grouped in the same compass. It presents also a striking illustration of the advance of public sentiment of that time from a very moderate and conservative to an extreme position. That record of legislation is of itself a quite complete history of the processes of Reconstruction, and is emphasized and rounded out and brought to conclusion by the chapter on the impeachment, and with a moral that will never be forgotten, nor its solemn admonition ever cease to impress the statesman or student of history.

The presentation thus made illustrates, clearly and forcibly, and in historical order, from the beginning to the end of the recital, as the war progressed to conclusion and exigencies developed by changing conditions, the progress of the sentiment of the North from the very moderate position originally occupied by Congress, representing the great mass of the people, to the extremes of public opinion and public demand for what may be termed "obliterative" legislation that characterized the closing year of the war and the year of Reconstruction that followed. It shows that even from that extreme but not illogical sequel of the strife, a still further advance was made, as the strife over Reconstruction continued, to the assumption by Congress of the power to declare and

enforce by arms, that nothing short of the destruction of the states themselves, as political entities, and their reorganization on the basis of equality to all their people, with rigid guarantees for the future, would be acceptable to the victor.

The record presented in this book shows that the course pursued by Congress in relation to Reconstruction developed in a marked degree the characteristics of a Congressional aristocracy—that it was ruled by a few men of marked personality and great power of will that brought men of less individuality and force to unquestioning compliance with their plans—that thus they ruled with an absoluteness of despotism that sought to absorb and did absorb, for a time, not only executive, but also, in a sense, judicial powers, in the reorganization of the revolted states.

Possibly the conditions of the time rendered this necessary. The generations to come may be better qualified to judge of that than those who participated in that great struggle as soldiers and legislators—who carried the sword and the torch, and were afterwards called to crystallize into law the decrees of the sword, and as far as possible by legislation to restore the devastations of the torch, through processes which came to be known as “Reconstruction.” Time, whose judgments are inexorable and know no reversal, will settle that question.

The vanquished, not unnaturally or unreasonably, insisted upon the best terms possible, while the winner was imperious and too often disdainful and revengeful. Too many of those who bore in the field the brunt of the strife seemed to forget that all for which they took up arms was victory and the restoration of a broken Union—not revenge—while too many, also, who had failed to respond to the call of their country when there was fighting to do, after their neighbors had fought out and settled the great paramount question—the preservation of the Union intact—under the stimulus of this extreme legislative action, became suddenly filled with patriotic indignation toward those who had fought out the war and refused to believe that the Union had been broken and needed rebuilding on a new and entirely different plan. It was that class of non-combatants, in large degree, who incited the drastic legislation that characterized the Reconstruction era and blurred the national statutes with laws that properly belonged to the Draconian age.

The book is a carefully prepared exhibit of these various progressive steps in the legislative measures of Reconstruction, from the beginning, in 1863, to the close of the impeachment trial in 1868. The presentation is logical, condensed and as complete as could be in the same space. It will be satisfactory to the reader in search of official information on that very important chapter of American history.

There is blunt but truthful force in the concluding statement of this record of the Reconstruction era, that “the whole period is marked by blunders and prejudices on both sides,” that “the spirit of compromise could find no place in either’s plans.” Looking back over the history of that time, the occasion for that suggestion becomes painfully apparent. “What might have been,” however, as the recital suggests, is as a rule a fruitless topic of discussion.

And yet the lesson of that record will remain one of profound significance and admonition to future ages, not only to the people of America as they come to occupy the continent with a hundred states and a hundred millions more of people, but to all the world, as that world advances in the greatest of all the sciences—the science of political government—a light for their guidance, as also a warning of danger.

Altogether, the book is as complete, fair and intelligent a statement of the occasion it describes as is possible in the space devoted to it, and cannot fail to interest and instruct all who may take the time necessary for its careful perusal and consideration.

EDMUND G. ROSS.

*History of the Scandinavians and Successful Scandinavians in the United States.* Compiled and edited by O. N. NELSON. (Minneapolis, Minn.: The Author. 1893 and 1897. Two vols., pp. xiii, 643; xiv, 498.)

IN recent years considerable attention has been paid by historical investigators to local matters and to racial contributions to history. Among works of this description the one under review will take its place as the most elaborate attempt yet made to deal with the Scandinavian element in the United States. In 1893 Mr. Nelson, after much research and with the assistance of collaborators, put forth the first volume of his work, that volume dealing especially with Scandinavians in Minnesota, but containing also brief accounts of early settlements, church organizations and national characteristics. The second volume, just issued, besides containing some historical summaries or essays, treats of Scandinavians in the states of Iowa and Wisconsin.

The work has a two-fold character—it is partly a collection of more or less distinct historic or statistical sketches, partly a biographical dictionary. The unifying feature is, of course, the race element; but, as these volumes show, even the race characteristics of the three nationalities vary considerably. While all have laid much stress on church and school work, the Norwegians have shown the most conservative adhesion to the Lutheran faith. The Swedes have given evidence of more versatility in religious as well as in other matters, while the Danes, in proportion to their number, have made less progress in these respects. As regards the numerical strength of the Scandinavians, including in this term all persons of Scandinavian parentage, the author computes that in Minnesota somewhat more than one out of every three persons is a Scandinavian, in Wisconsin one out of every seven, and in Iowa not quite one out of every ten. In the matter of crime the Northmen stand very high, and, before 1880, they did so in respect to insanity. Since that date their proportional number of insane persons has largely increased. On this head the author has, in his second volume, a carefully prepared article, which will no doubt be read with interest. Among other articles in this volume is one on Luther College, an institution of learning founded by Norwegian Lutherans in 1861.